

School Committee Policy Review Subcommittee
Thursday, September 15, 2016
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
5th Floor Conference, Town Hall

Policy Review Subcommittee members present: Dr. Jackson (Chairman), Mr. Glover, and Ms. Stone (arrived at 8:30 AM).

School Staff present: Mr. Bott, Ms. Dunn, and Mr. Zimmerman.

1) Approval of the Minutes of the July 1, 2016 Policy Review Subcommittee Meeting

On a motion of Dr. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Glover, the Policy Review Subcommittee voted unanimously (Dr. Jackson and Mr. Glover) to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2016 Policy Review Subcommittee meeting.

2) Discussion of Priorities for the Year

Mr. Bott shared his thoughts about what the priorities for the Policy Subcommittee should be. The Subcommittee agreed to tackle the Meal Charge Policy first. The next item will be the Opioid Use Policy as it is already drafted and must be completed before December 1, 2016. Other issues to be taken up include:

- Hazing
- Discriminatory Harassment
- Wellness
- Field Trip
- Home Schooling

3) Review and Discussion of the Proposed Public Schools of Brookline (PSB) Meal Charges Policy

Ms. Dunn presented the proposed PSB Meal Charges Policy (Attachment A). The Subcommittee discussed whether we should add additional language to the policy to highlight the goal of providing students meals (i.e., not denying meals). We confirmed that there is no language in the policy that allows for denying students meals and that the administrative directive provides cascading consequences for when meal payments are not made including when to provide alternative meal options. Ms. Dunn confirmed that no one has the authority to take meals away or to swap meals.

The Subcommittee decided that Ms. Dunn would take a look at other policies associated with the Meal Charge policy to determine if a statement related to ensuring meals for students already exists. If it does the Meal Charge policy can reference this policy instead of adding a preamble. Ms. Dunn will also provide an explanation at the October 6, 2016 School Committee meeting of the food policies generally and how the meal charge policy fits within these.

On a motion of Dr. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Glover, the Subcommittee voted unanimously to bring the Meal Charge Policy to first reading at the October 6, 2016 School Committee meeting.

4) Discussion of Proposed PSB Hazing Policy

Ms. Stone and Mr. Zimmerman agreed that we need a definition of what hazing is – whether from the law or elsewhere. Mr. Zimmerman and Ms. Gittens are currently reviewing the Bullying Policy which has to be updated annually. We need to look at hazing in the context of bullying, harassment and discrimination.

In the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) version of the hazing policy (Attachment B) there is not enough about staff obligations and/or staff consequences for not intervening. We need to look and see if hazing is referenced in any existing employee policies. Mr. Glover asked if we want students who are aware of hazing happening to be held accountable for reporting.

Ms. Stone suggested we better organize the policy so you can find what you are looking for – what is it, if you are doing it, if you are aware of it, if you are a victim of it, etc. Next steps – Mr. Zimmerman, Ms. Gittens, and Ms. Ryan-Miller are meeting on September 16, 2016 to discuss bullying. They will bring that and the Hazing Policy back to the Subcommittee at the next meeting. We will ask Associate Town Counsel Patricia Correa to review the drafts and see if she can join us at the next meeting.

5) Discussion of Proposed Procedures/Policies related to Opioid Use

The Subcommittee will discuss the Opioid Policy at the next meeting. Coordinator of Health Services Tricia Laham will be asked to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.